



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## FALL HARVEST WELL UNDERWAY WITH BETTER THAN EXPECTED RESULTS

**NASHVILLE, October 11, 2012** –Combines are rolling, pickers are picking, and tobacco is being placed in the barn. Along with these, early yield results for 2012 farmers, except for corn, point to some encouraging, surprising outcomes, especially given the summer drought. Farmers overall expect a much improved tobacco crop, a better than average cotton crop, and about average per acre returns for soybeans and hay. The lone disappointment was the corn crop that was hit by the drought at its peak development time. State Director, Debra Kenerson, explained that, “When rains finally arrived in late summer and continued into September, all crops, except corn, were at a stage of development that they could take full advantage of the moisture and exhibit good growth and fruit development.” In brief, an October 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 89 bushels per acre, down 42 bushels from last year’s yield of 131 bushels; **Cotton**, 832 pounds per acre, up 36 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 35.0 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels per acre from 2011; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, up by 290 pounds per acre from last year.

## DROUGHT STRICKEN AVERAGE CORN YIELD LOWEST IN ALMOST TWENTY YEARS (SINCE 1993)

Tennessee’s corn production is forecast at 86.3 million bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 89 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels per acre from last month’s predictions, but down significantly from 131 bushels per acre in 2011. This would be the lowest yielding crop in almost twenty years. The State’s farmers planted 1.03 million acres, the most since 1961. Farmers harvested 970,000 acres for grain, 235,000 more acres than last year and the most acreage in 50 years. Harvest progressed rapidly during September and was completed at a pace about three weeks ahead of normal.

## COTTON GROWERS EXPECT LESS TOTAL PRODUCTION BUT GOOD PER ACRE YIELDS

Tennessee’s cotton production is projected to total 650,000 bales, down 20 percent from last year’s production of 813,000 bales. However, yields are forecast to average 832 pounds per acre, up from 796 pounds per acre the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 375,000 acres, down 115,000 acres from 2011. Defoliation, slowed by rainfall, is drawing toward completion and harvest is well underway.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION MORE THAN LAST YEAR AND YIELDS BETTER THAN AVERAGE

Soybean production is expected to total 42.7 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Soybean yields are projected at 35.0 bushels per acre, an increase of 3 bushels per acre from 2011. Tennessee’s 2012 soybean planted acreage is estimated at 1.26 million acres, down 30,000 acres from 2011. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.22 million acres, down 40,000 from a year ago. Ample late summer and fall rainfall allowed this year’s soybean crop to recover after a severe drought. The crop grew at a remarkable rate during September and has now about finished development. The acreage is shedding leaves and harvest is underway.

(OVER)

## HIGHEST BURLEY PRODUCTION SINCE 2006

Burley production is expected to reach 30.4 million pounds, up 35 percent from 2011. The average state yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, surpassing last year's poor yielding crop by 290 pounds per acre. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 16,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres from 2011. Tobacco yield prospects have improved for dark tobacco and were as good as expected last month for burley. Scarce labor supplies have delayed the completion of harvesting and hanging the heavy leaves in the barn has been a challenge. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre, up 210 pounds from last year, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,750 pounds per acre, up 130 pounds from 2011.

## HAY PRODUCTION INCHES UPWARDS

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is projected to total 3.58 million tons, down 8 percent from a year ago, but up 5 percent from last month's forecast. Yields are expected to average 2.0 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton per acre from last year, however, up 0.1 ton per acre from last month. Acreage is estimated at 1.79 million acres, down 4 percent. Cooler temperatures and timely rainfall during September helped maintain pastures in mostly good condition. As a result, some hay producers cut acreage an unexpected second or third time.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2012, WITH COMPARISONS

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Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,500	7,500
Corn for grain	bu.	735	970	131.0	89.0	96,285	86,330
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	490	375	796	832	813	650
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,860	1,790	2.10	2.00	3,906	3,580
Soybeans	bu.	1,260	1,220	32.0	35.0	40,320	42,700
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.0	23.8	2,062	2,279	45,363	54,230
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.9	6.8	2,890	3,100	19,941	21,080
Burley	lb.	14.0	16.0	1,610	1,900	22,540	30,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.1	1.0	2,620	2,750	2,882	2,750
Winter Wheat	bu.	310	340	69.0	63.0	21,390	21,420
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,420,000	8,065,700
Corn for grain	bu.	83,981	87,721	147.2	122.0	12,358,412	10,705,729
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	9,460.9	10,443.4	790	795	15,573.2	17,287.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,420	38,762	1.81	1.71	65,812	66,408
Soybeans	bu.	73,776	75,693	41.9	37.8	3,093,524	2,860,290
Tobacco, All	lb.	325.04	338.08	1,841	2,308	598,320	780,428
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.40	16.18	3,154	3,293	51,721	53,283
Burley	lb.	88.90	101.10	1,938	2,001	172,265	202,255
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.50	5.20	2,924	2,871	16,082	14,930
Winter Wheat	bu.	32,314	34,834	46.2	47.2	1,493,677	1,645,202

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

*Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)*